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The Report of the Commission on Undesirable Publications ;
memorandum to the Hon. the Minister of the Interior : 113

Enkele aspekte van leserkundige ondersoek in Suid-Afrika,
Prof. G. Cronjé: 116

Mr. M. M. Stirling : citation on the presentation of
an illuminated address : 122

Mr. Charles Christie : an appreciation : 125

Die opkoms van die Staatsbiblioteek en sy planne vir bevordering
van die Nederlandse boek,
Dr. G. W. Eybers: 127

Non-European library services in Pretoria,
Margaret Peters: 130

A plan for the development of scientific and technical library
services in South Africa, *Hazel Mews*: 134

Afrikaanse literatuur van die vierde kwartaal van 1957,
D. L. Ehlers: 137

Some recent South African books in English,
R. B. Zaaiman: 140

Library notes, news and correspondence : 126, 133

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No. 4

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON UNDESIRABLE PUBLICATIONS*

*Memorandum sent by the Council of the S.A. Library Association to the
Hon. the Minister of the Interior*

Sir,

After making a careful study of the Report of the Commission on Undesirable Publications in the Union of South Africa, we wish to place before you the following considered observations:

1. We appreciate, and strongly approve, the positive measures recommended by the Commission for the promotion of good reading (see chapters 12-22 entitled "Promotive measures"), and in particular the rôle assigned to libraries in this great and important task (see chapter 18 in particular).
2. We are of opinion that if all these promotive measures are vigorously applied – and in particular, the provision of adequate library services for the non-Europeans – it may be possible to solve to a large extent the problem of objectionable and harmful literature without resorting to an expensive and from many points of view undesirable internal censorship (see paras 6 to 11 below).
3. We suggest therefore that before legislation in support of the principle of restraining publications is introduced, these promotive measures should be given a trial, to gauge their cumulative effect on the quality of internal publications in particular.
4. After close and careful study of part 1, chapters 2-3 of the *Report* we are of opinion that, while the problem of dealing with "objectionable, obscene and harmful literature" is certainly a real one in South Africa, there is no need for legislation on internal censorship. For the extent of the problem, in relation to the total amount of reading done, has been unwittingly exaggerated by the Commission. Thus on examining the statistical analysis in Part 1 we find that cognizance has not been taken of the estimated 16 million "book-borrowings" per year from public libraries and library systems (*Municipal yearbook*, 1956-7, pp. 456-64); few of these books – if indeed any – can be fairly described as "obscene, objectionable or harmful". We note also that the percentage figures relating to internal publications are based on a partial output which excludes many works in fields other than imaginative literature, including many religious publications which can in no way be described as "undesirable" even under the

extremely broad definition arrived at by the Commission. In par. 3 : 3 the Commission states that during 1945-54, 13,219 titles were published in South Africa. The Commission examined only 3,582 titles published during the period 1947-54 (par. 3 : 4). It is clear, therefore, that the sample represented little more than a quarter of the total output. These two factors, among others, substantially detract from the value of this part of the Report, as a true total picture of the situation in South Africa. We also consider that insufficient weight has been given to the positive and promotive work already being done by interested bodies in this country.

5. Further, we believe that in quoting evidence from similar investigations overseas the Commission has given too much weight to the thesis that "undesirable" reading matter necessarily leads to increased crime, and not enough to an authoritative body of opinion which is not convinced by this thesis.
6. Even if, however, it be found that any need for legislation does exist in principle, we are seriously disturbed by a number of points relating to the machinery for meeting such a need. In the first place, and fundamental to the whole enquiry, is the question of *definition*. We feel that the norms proposed in section 2 of the Draft Bill (pp. 93 *et seq.*) cast the net far too wide to be practical without doing grave violence to the whole cause of literature in South Africa. For if all these norms were to be applied there would be scarcely a work that would justify its "exemption".
7. Furthermore, it is submitted that the approach of the Commission proceeds on an erroneous basis, namely, the decision of COCKBURN C. J. in the Hicklin case of 1868, without considering
 - (a) the way in which that decision has been qualified by more recent cases, such as *R. v. Martin Secker & Warburg* (1954) and
 - (b) the trends in one of the leading countries in the Western world, namely the United States of America, where the U.S. Supreme Court applies the test : "whether to the average person applying *contemporary* community standards the dominant theme of the material, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interest."
8. Then there are questions of *procedure*. We would say at once that to our knowledge the apparatus recommended by the Commission exists in no other Western country save Eire. The draft Bill appears to be based largely on the Censorship of Publications Act, 1929, as amended, in Eire. The effect of such a system in that country has, in our opinion, neither solved the problem of "undesirable" literature, nor had any but an inhibiting effect on its own writers and publishers. In our view the application of a similar system in South Africa would have the disastrous effect both of inhibiting serious creative writing, particularly in Afrikaans, and of driving our best writers overseas. As librarians we are deeply concerned at this prospect, which we regard as being very real, and we urge that the Commission's recommendations be reconsidered in this light.
9. In particular these proposals are open to criticism on the following grounds :
 - (a) The Publications Board is an administrative body, and its functioning in lieu of the courts of law will have the effect of depriving the ordinary citizen of access to the courts. In our view access to the courts is a cornerstone of a truly democratic society, and it is not to be eroded by considerations such as the fact that court proceedings may be tardy, or that court decisions may present a lack of uniformity. For these criticisms of the judicial system apply in all spheres of life and not only to literature, and if they are to be admitted as justification for by-passing the courts where internal censorship is concerned, the precedent is established for by-passing the courts in other spheres of life.
 - (b) The holding of proceedings in camera will mean that they will be divorced from any contact with healthy public opinion, and without the exercise of healthy public opinion there will be no method of ascertaining the "contemporary community standards" referred to in par. 7(b) above.
10. We submit that the Report together with its Recommendations involves so much

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON UNDESIRABLE LITERATURE 115

curtailment of freedom that it must inevitably provoke a vast measure of criticism, if not censure, overseas. In this connection we would say that even in this country it has already been stated by *Die Burger* that the courts "should have the final say"; by *Die Vaderland*, "that much difference of opinion will arise on the concept of undesirability"; by *Dagbreek en Sondagnuus* that "censorship is a too dangerous road for a free country . . . however reluctantly taken"; by *Die Transvaler* that "the democrat - and what South African citizen is not one? - is jealous of his freedom"; and by *Die Weste* that "the least degree of freedom which must be demanded for the press is the absolute right to criticise the Government, political parties, sub-

ordinate legislative and administrative organs, and to correct them without the slightest danger of prosecution or suppression; provided that the bounds of decency and the public interest are kept."

11. Lastly, we are of opinion that the dangers of a system of censorship in which, as stated above, no provision is made for appeal to the courts of law, outweigh the dangers inherent even in the circulation of "undesirable" literature, and that the provision of a nominated Publications Appeal Board would in no way compensate for the loss of a civil right conferred by the rule of law, in this as in other civilized communities.

March, 1958.

* Report of the Commission of Enquiry in regard to undesirable publications. Pretoria Government Printer 1957. [U.G. 42 of 1957] Chairman: Prof. G. Cronje.

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PRICES ON APPLICATION

ENKELE ASPEKTE VAN LESERKUNDIGE ONDERSOEK IN SUID-AFRIKA¹

deur

Prof. GEOFFREY CRONJÉ

Universiteit van Pretoria

LESERKUNDIGE ONDERSOEK verkeer hier te lande nog maar in sy kinderskoene. Dit ly egter geen twyfel nie dat in die nabye toekoms veel daar-aan gedoen sal moet word indien Suid-Afrika wil verseker dat die geskrewe woord vir sy mense die groots moontlike voordeel sal hê en aan hulle so min moontlik skade sal berokken.

Met die oog op dit alles is dit in die eerste instansie noodsaaklik dat aandag geskenk sal word aan die metode van leserkundige onder-soeke. In hierdie rede sal die metodes wat deur die Kommissie van Ondersoek insake onge-wenste Publikasies aangewend is, kortliks in oënskou geneem word.

In die tweede plek is dit noodsaaklik om rekenkap te gee van die studiegebied van die leserkunde. Sosiologies beskou, kom dit my voor dat, afgesien van lektuurvoorsiening, -verspreiding en -bevordering, die hoo probleme van die leserkunde met die volgende drie vrae saamhang :

1. Wat is daar om te lees ?
2. Wat word gelees ?
3. Wie lees wat ?

In hierdie rede sal dan nagegaan word of en in hoeverre die bevindings van die Kommissie iets tot die beantwoording van hierdie vrae kan bydra. Dit is dan egter nodig om daarop te wys dat die ondersoek wat ingestel is, soveel moontlik beperk en so gou moontlik afgehandel moes word. Nietemin handel byna die helfte van die Verslag oor die aard van die vraagstuk, veral in Suid-Afrika, terwyl enersyds aan be-heermaatreëls en andersyds aan bevorderings-maatreëls min of meer ewevel ruimte bestee word; die een is trouens ook nie minder belangrik as die ander nie.

Ten einde 'n duidelike beeld van die aard

van die vraagstuk hier te lande te verkry, het die Kommissie ses besondere ondersoek ingestel wat van leserkundige aard is, nl. in verband met : boeke ; tydskrifte ; koerante ; sirkulasiesyfers van tydskrifte en koerante ; leser van tydskrifte en koerante ; en leestof en illustrasies by die Bantoe in Pretoria.

Die ondersoek in verband met boeke

Hierdie ondersoek het betrekking gehad op die boeke wat gedurende die twintig jaar, 1935 tot 1954, in Suid-Afrika uitgegee is. Uit die aard van die saak was dit nie moontlik en buitendien ook nie nodig of gewens om al die boeke in die ondersoek in te sluit nie. Die eerste taak was dan ook om die studiegebied af te baken. Dit is gedoen deur alle wetenskap-like, tegniese, skool-, godsdienstige, politieke, munisipale, staats-, e.d. publikasies en ook alle herdrukke uit te sluit. Die ondersoek het dan in hoofsaak gehandel oor literêre boeke (ruim opgevat) en oor populêr-wetenskaplike werke.

Die tweede taak was om die boeke wat bestudeer sou word, te klassifiseer met die oog op die opstelling van lyste vir elk van die twintig jare onder beskouing. Vir elke jaar is vier hooflyste opgestel : oorspronklik Afrikaans; oorspronklik Engels; vertaal in Afrikaans; en vertaal in Engels.

Elke hooflyst het uit vier groepe bestaan : (a) Romans en verhale ; (b) Verse ; (c) Toneel, en (d) Ander werke ; terwyl elke groep drie onder-

¹ Uittreksels uit 'n feesrede uitgespreek ter geleentheid van die Twealfde Jaarlikse Konferensie van die S.-A. Biblioteekvereniging, Pretoria, 30 September 1957.

afdelings gehad het: vir volwassenes; vir jeugdiges; en vir kinders.

Die derde taak was dan om die lyste opgestel te kry. Dit is gedaan deur die Transvaalse Proviniale Biblioteek-organiseerder aan die hand van die jaarlikse outeursreglyste van die Staatsbiblioteek, Pretoria, terwyl by wyse van kontrole ook gebruik gemaak is van die Transvaalse Proviniale Biblioteek se eie katalogus, van die *Kwartaalblad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek* en van Nienaber se *Bibliografie van Afrikaanse Boeke*. Die uiteindelike lyste het 3,746 Afrikaanse en 784 Engelse titels bevat wat dan vanselfsprekend nie die totale boekproduksie vir die twintig jaar verteenwoordig nie.

Die vierde taak was om die boeke te laat beoordeel. Met die oog daarop het die Kommissie 'n geskoonde letterkundige vir 'n jaar voltyds in diens gehad en daarbenewens is die medewerking verkry van 'n aantal bevoegde beoordelaars wat gedurig oorleg met mekaar gepleeg het. Daar is besluit om alle boeke in drie klasse te verdeel: gangbaar tot goed; minderwaardig; en ongewens, terwyl in die geval van die Afrikaanse romans en verhale vir volwassenes die klas *gangbaar tot goed* verdeel is in *letterkundig goed* en *gangbaar*. Die beoordeling het geskied aan die hand van norme wat vooraf bepaal en getoets is.

Die vyfde taak was dan die verwerking en vertolking van die gegewens. In hierdie verband is die medewerking verkry van 'n statistikus en van enkele letterkundiges. Die twintig jaar onder beskouing is in vyf tydperke van vier jaar elk verdeel en die gegewens is ontleed volgens leesgroepe (volwassenes, jeugdiges, kinders) en volgens soorte leestof (romans en verhale, toneel, ander werke).

Jeugboeke

Van die 3,746 Afrikaanse boeke wat bestudeer is, was 402 (10·7%) jeugboeke, terwyl daar onder die 784 Engelse titels 15 (1·9%) jeugboeke voorgekom het. Gedurende die 20 jaar is gemiddeld 20 Afrikaanse jeugboeke per jaar uitgegee terwyl gemiddeld nie eens 1 Engelse jeugboek per jaar die lig gesien het nie. Die produksie van binnelandse jeugboeke is dus skraal in Afrikaans en onbeduidend in Engels. Onmiddellik ontstaan die vraag: Wat is daar vir ons jeug om te lees en wat lees hulle? Dit is wel waar dat ons jeug, veral die Engels-

sprekende gedeelte daarvan, hulle tot die ingevoerde jeuglektuur in Engels kan wend, maar behoort die leestof van ons jeug nie, ten minste vir 'n groot gedeelte, deur ons eie gemeenskap voortgebring te word nie? Kan dit met reg gesê word dat die publikasie van jeugboeke 'n riskante onderneming is omdat die jeug hulle wend tot leestof wat vir volwassenes bedoel is? Is dit nie dalk ook moontlik dat die jeug die "volwasse" leestof verslind omdat daar nie vir hulle genoeg geskikte en aantreklike jeuglektuur bestaan nie? Moet die vraag nie ook gestel word of ons jeug nie dalk reeds vir 'n groot gedeelte die prooi geword het nie van die minderwaardige en ten dele ongewenste binnelandse en ingevoerde leestof wat by duisende verkooppunte te koop aangebied word? Slaag die huisgesin en die skool daarin om by die jeug goeie leesgewoontes aan te kweek? Werk die studie van die voorgeskrewe boek liefde of afkeer vir goeie letterkunde in die hand? So kan voortgegaan word om vrae te stel waardeur die leserkundige probleme in verband met ons jeug aangedui kan word.

Kinderboeke

Van die 3,746 bestudeerde Afrikaanse titels was 1,069 (28·5%) kinderboeke, terwyl onder die 784 Engelse titels 95 (12·1%) kinderboeke voorgekom het. Die gemiddelde getal kinderboeke per jaar was dus sowat 53 in Afrikaans en 5 in Engels. Met die publikasie van kinderboeke is dit dus in Suid-Afrika veel beter gesteld as met die produksie van jeugboeke. Nietemin kom ons weer voor die vraag te staan: wat is daar vir ons kinders om te lees en wat lees hulle? Ook al word talle Engelse kinderboeke uit die buiteland bekom, lê dit nogtans voor die hand dat die publikasie van Engelse kinderboeke in hierdie land ernstige aandag dien te geniet. Genoeg kinderboeke moet vanselfsprekend in elke gemeenskap van die allergrootste belang geag word. Die grondslag van die leesgewoontes van ons mense word in 'n groot mate gedurende die kindjare gevorm. Die miljoene eksemplare van ingevoerde (en meestal minderwaardige) prentverhale wat elke jaar in hierdie land versprei word, word vir die oorgrote gedeelte deur kinders gelees. Is dit bevorderlik vir die vorming van goeie leesgewoontes en vir die ontwikkeling van 'n breë belangstelling by ons kinders?

Klaarblyklik moet die leserkundige probleme wat in verband met ons kinders bestaan, ernstige aandag geniet.

Engelse boeke

In die bestudeerde Engelse boeke het ongewenstheid en minderwaardigheid slegs in geringe mate voorgekom. Dit moet waarskynlik daaraan toegeskryf word dat daardie soorte boeke in Engels in die buiteland met sulke groot oplae verskyn en hier teen sulke lae pryse aangebied word dat dit nie lonend is om hulle hier uit te gee nie.

Afrikaanse boeke

Van die 3,746 Afrikaanse titels wat beoordeel is, was 72 (1·9%) ongewens. Hiervan was een 'n kinderboek terwyl die ander 71 vir volwassenes bedoel is, d.w.s. 3·1% van die 2,275 boeke vir volwassenes. Van die 71 ongewenste boeke vir volwassenes was 65 romans en verhale, d.i. 3·8% van die 1,712 romans en verhale vir volwassenes. Die gevoltagekking lê dan voor die hand dat die probleem van ongewenstheid in Afrikaanse boeke by uitstek geleë is in romans en verhale vir volwassenes.

Aangesien die toename van sowel ongewenste as minderwaardige Afrikaanse romans geblyk het snel te wees, het die vraag ontstaan hoedanig die verloop van sake ten aansien van die goeie en gangbare romans was. Om die vraag te beantwoord, is die *oorspronklike* Afrikaanse romans vir volwassenes in drie groeppe verdeel: letterkundig goed, gangbaar en minderwaardig (ongewens ingesluit), en 'n persentasieverdeling goed-gangbaar-minderwaardig is gemaak. Dit het toe geblyk dat die persentasie aandeel van goeie romans gedaal het van 34·2 in 1935-8 tot 4·3 in 1951-4, terwyl die van minderwaardige romans gestyg het van 2·6 in die eerste tot 26·8 in die laaste tydperk en van gangbare romans min of meer konstant gebly en tussen ongeveer 63-73 gewissel het.

Dit blyk dat die gemiddelde getal eksemplare wat aan die publiek verkoop is, nagenoeg twee keer so groot is in die geval van die minderwaardige en ongewenste as in die geval van die goeie en gangbare romans. Dit is dus duidelik dat by 'n groot deel van die publiek minderwaardige leesstof byval vind en dat die goeie en gangbare roman veel minder aftrek kry.

Verspreiding deur die handel

Die vraag kan ten slotte gestel word hoeveel boeke in 'n bepaalde jaar deur die handel versprei word. Die Kommissie het geskat dat in 1954, wat (minderwaardige en ten dele ongewenste) ingevoerde slapbankboeke betref, minstens 6,000,000 eksemplare in die Unie versprei is. Daarbenewens is in dieselfde jaar minstens 7,000,000 eksemplare van (meestal minderwaardige) ingevoerde prentverhale versprei, minstens 2,000,000 eksemplare van goeie en gangbare ingevoerde boeke wat behoort tot die klasse wat deur die Kommissie bestudeer is, en sowat 1,250,000 eksemplare van binne-landse Afrikaanse en Engelse boeke behorende tot dieselfde klasse, d.w.s. 'n totaal van minstens 16,250,000 eksemplare van buite- en binne-landse boeke waarvan verreweg die meeste minderwaardig was. Dit is natuurlik nie die totale getal boeke wat in daardie jaar versprei is nie. Na alle waarskynlikheid kan die totale getal boeke wat in 1954 in die Unie deur die handel versprei is, gestel word op sowat 20,000,000 eksemplare wat as my eie skatting beskou moet word. Die feit bly selfs dan nog staan dat die meeste van hierdie eksemplare dié van minderwaardige publikasies was.

Nou kan uit leserkundige oogpunt verskilende vrae gestel word, by voorbeeld: Waarom wend 'n groot deel van die lesende publiek hulle tot minderwaardige boeke? Voorsien daar die soort boeke in 'n wesenlike behoeftie of is die vraag na hulle op 'n „kunsmatige” wyse geskep, bv. deur die Unie se verspreidingsstelsel wat geskoei is op die lees van die V.S.A. en Kanada? In watter mate, indien wel, het die verspreiding van minderwaardige ingevoerde boeke die publikasie van dergelike boeke in die Unie in die hand gewerk? Watter uitwerking het die verspreiding van soveel minderwaardige boeke op die smaak van die lesende publiek? Is dit beter dat 'n deel van die publiek minderwaardige boeke lees as dat hulle glad niks lees nie? Is die behoeftie aan minderwaardige boeke 'n „normale”, verbygaande fase in die lewe van die mens en kan met reg gesê word dat hy in daardie fase ten minste leer lees en hom dan later tot beter leesstof sal wend? Sal die deel van die publiek wat tans minderwaardige lektuur verkies, vanself beter boeke lees as die minderwaardiges nie te koop aangebied word nie? Watter rol speel die prys van boeke, d.w.s. word minderwaardige boeke meer gelees omdat hulle goedkoper is?

Ensovoorts. Al hierdie en dergelike vrae wag op beantwoording en dit is alleen deur diepgaande leserkundige ondersoek dat afdoende antwoorde gegee sal kan word.

Boekverspreiding deur Biblioteke

Natuurlik moet ook daarmee rekening gehou word dat elke jaar miljoene boeke deur ander kanale as die handel versprei word, met name deur biblioteke. Dit kan gerus aangeneem word dat minderwaardige boeke in die verband nie 'n groot rol speel nie maar die vraag ontstaan dan weer of en in hoeverre ons biblioteke daarin slaag om die lees van minderwaardige boeke teen te gaan. Ek sou dit nie wou waag om hierdie vraag te probeer beantwoord nie, maar ek kan tog wel sê dat te midde van alles wat sorgwekkend is wat betref die posisie van die boek in Suid-Afrika die prysenswaardige werk wat ons biblioteke doen (en waarvan ek die afgelope paar jaar meer as tevore bewus geword het) deur ons gemeenskap nie hoog genoeg waardeer kan word nie. Bibliotekaris is nie alleen kenners nie; hulle is ook idealiste wat kultuurwerk van onskatbare waarde verrig. En dit is sekerlik nie onvanpas dat die werk van sulke idealiste by tye geloof sal word nie.

Die ondersoek in verband met tydskrifte

Hierdie ondersoek het betrekking gehad op binnelandse tydskrifte van 'n algemene aard en het oor 'n tydperk van 20 jaar gestrek. Die ontleiding van die inhoud van die tydskrifte het geskied aan die hand van 'n steekproef wat in oorleg met 'n statistikus saamgestel is. Die steekproef het bestaan uit 506 uitgawes van weeklike tydskrifte, 181 uitgawes van maandblaaie vir blankes en 58 uitgawes van maandblaaie vir nie-blankes.

Enkele bevindings na aanleiding van hierdie ondersoek sal kortliks behandel word.

In die weeklike tydskrifte het van 1935 tot 1946 geen ongewenste verhale of artikels voorgekom nie maar die voorkoms van ongewenste verhale en artikels tesame per 100 uitgawes was 3·5 in 1947-50 en 3·8 in 1951-4.

Hoewel met sekere skommelings het ongewenstheid in die inhoud van die *maandblaaie* (vir blankes en vir nie-blankes) toegeneem.

Die binnelandse tydskrifte is nie uit die

oogpunt van minderwaardigheid beoordeel nie maar dit is tog moontlik om op grond van sekere indrukke wat by die bestudering van die betrokke tydskrifte verkry is, enkele opmerkings te maak.

In die eerste plek word gekonstateer dat die inhoud van sekere tydskrifte, meer bepaald sekere maandblaaie, minderwaardig is in soverre hulle nie ongewens is nie, afgesien daarvan dat elke ongewenste verhaal en artikel wat teëgekom is, ook minderwaardig was. Sonder voorbehoud word die bevinding gestel dat die algemene inhoud van die tydskrifte wat ongewens is, ook minderwaardig is, net soos in die geval van boeke bevind is.

In die tweede plek is dit opvallend dat sekere goede weeklike tydskrifte heelwat gedaanteverandering ondergaan het. Hul algemene inhoud het met verloop van jare al „ligter“ en al „populêrder“ (in die reël al hoe swakker) geword en wel blybaar omdat hulle rekening moes hou met die mededinging van die minderwaardige maandblaaie. Hierdie eersgenoemde tydskrifte het darem nie minderwaardig geword nie. Die vraag ontstaan nou wat die omvang van die tydskriffeesstof in Suid-Afrika is in terme van die getal eksemplare.

Die Kommissie het geskat dat in 1954 minstens 23,000,000 eksemplare van buitelandse tydskrifte van 'n algemene aard in die Unie ingevoer is. Indien alles in berekening gebring sou kan word, sal dit my geensins verbaas as in 1954 en 1955 (in elk van hierdie jare) sowat 100 000,000 tydskriffeesstof vir ons land. Stel daarnaas die deur my geskatte 20,000,000 eksemplare van boeke wat in 1954 deur die handel hier te lande versprei is, dan moet ons tot die gevolgtrekking kom dat vir elke eksemplaar van 'n boek wat die handel versprei het, 5 tydskriffeesstof vir die publiek besorg is.

Nou ontstaan die vraag nogeens of op grond van hierdie skattings gekonstateer kan word dat die Unie 'n by uitstek tydskriffeesende publiek het en dat dit derhalwe met die posisie van die boek hier nie juis gunstig gesteld is nie. Vir my kom dit voor of dit werkelik die geval is en of die boek hier te lande 'n groot agterstand het in vergelyking met die tydskrif. Is dit daaraan toe te skryf dat die boekhandel as bedryf in die Unie soveel swakker ontwikkel is as bv. in sekere Wes-Europese lande en veel

swakker selfs as in die Skandinawiese lande met hul klein bevolking? Of het boeke in Suid-Afrika 'n klein leserpubliek omdat ons so betreklik min boekhandels het?

In elk geval moet dit duidelik wees dat die posisie van die boeke in vergelyking met die van die tydskrif in ons land diepgaande ondersoek verg. As die boek van sy leserpubliek aan die tydskrif moet afstaan of reeds afgestaan het, kan dit vir die kulturele lewv van die gemeenskap ernstige gevare inhoud. Die boek is die geskrewe woord in 'n blywender vorm as die tydskrif en vanselfsprekend ook as die koerante wat 'n kortstondige bestaan het.

Sirkulasiesyfers van tydskrifte en koerante

Die Kommissie het 'n ontleding gemaak van die sirkulasiesyfers van tydskrifte en koerante. In hierdie bespreking word slegs na dié vir tydskrifte verwys.

Indien die syfers bestudeer word, kom aan die lig dat min of meer gelyktydig met die nuwe (meestal minderwaardige) maandblaas, die sirkulasiesyfers vir die ouere weeklike tydskrifte opvallend begin daal het. Dit is nodig om te bepaal of hierdie daling daarvan toegeskryf moet word dat die „ouere“ tydskrifte mededinging van die nuwes ondervind het.

Ongetwyfeld is in die Unie sedert die einde van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog meer as tevore gelees. Enersyds bestaan in hierdie verband die moontlikheid dat die publiek wat vroeër reeds gereeld gelees het, nou meer begin lees het, en andersyds moet rekening gehou word met die moontlikheid dat die lesende publiek groter geword het, d.w.s. dat 'n deel van die gemeenskap wat tevore nie huis gelees het nie, nou deel van die leserpubliek geword het. Dit lyk asof die verskynsel dat in die jongste jare in toenemende mate gelees is, veral daaraan toegeskryf moet word dat 'n „nuwe“ of bykomende leserpubliek te voorskyn getree het.

Vervolgens kom ons by die vraag of tans meer boeke en meer tydskrifte of meer boeke of meer tydskrifte gelees word. Waarskynlik word nou meer boeke en meer tydskrifte gelees. In elk geval het die leserpubliek groter geword wat die binnelandse tydskrifte betref. Die getal eksemplare van ons eie tydskrifte van 'n algemene aard het toegeneem van 11,000,000 in 1945 tot 33,000,000 in 1955.

Die lezers van tydskrifte en koerante

Die gegewens waaruit die berekening gemaak kon word, is verkry uit „Franklin Research (Pty) Limited“ se *Readership Survey*, no. 7 van Februarie-Maart 1955.

1. Soos te wagte is, word Afrikaanse tydskrifte veral deur Afrikaanssprekendes en Engelse tydskrifte by uitstek deur Engels-sprekendes gelees. Dit blyk egter ook dat Afrikaanssprekendes in 'n groter mate Engelse tydskrifte lees as wat Engelssprekendes aandag aan Afrikaanse tydskrifte sken.

2. Afgesien van vrouetyldekskifte kan nie gesê word dat tydskrifte van 'n algemene aard meer deur die een as deur die ander geslag gelees word nie.

3. Die gegewens dui daarop dat onder die Afrikaanssprekendes die „ouere“ persone (ouer as 34 jaar) in mindere mate as die „jongeres“ tydskrifte lees. Verder laat die gegewens die vermoede posvat dat die „ouere“ Engels-sprekendes meer tydskrifte lees as die „ouere“ Afrikaanssprekendes. Op grond van hierdie gegewens lyk dit ook waarskynlik dat die „nuwe“ Afrikaanse leserpubliek veral uit „jongere“ persone bestaan.

4. Van die gegewens kan aangelei word dat ongewenste (en minderwaardige) Engelse en Afrikaanse tydskrifte veral by persone uit die „jongere“ leeftydsgroep byval vind. Hierdie gevolgtrekking maak die probleem van ongewenstheid en minderwaardigheid in binnelandse tydskrifte des te sorgwekkender omdat die skadelike invloed van hierdie soort leesstof op die „jongere“ leser verrekender gevolge as op die „oueres“ kan hê.

Toekomstige leserkundige ondersoek

Die leserkundige ondersoek wat die Kommissie ingestel het, moet as aanvoorwerk beskou word. Sy bevindings kan egter van belang wees vir die beantwoording van die eerste twee van die drie leserkundige vrae wat ek by die aanvang gestel het, nl.: Wat is daar om te lees? en: Wat word gelees?

Die bevindings kan die derde vraag (nl.: Wie lees wat?) slegs in 'n mate beantwoord en wel wat binnelandse tydskrifte en koerante betref.

Veel meer leserkundige ondersoek sal nog ingestel moet word. Dit lê voor die hand. Die biblioteke sal in hierdie oopsig 'n groot bydrae

kan lewer. Ek wil net 'n voorbeeld noem van ondersoek wat hulle kan onderneem in verband met die derde en baie belangrike vraag.

'n Steekproef kan geneem word van biblioteke wat vir 'n bepaalde tydperk sekere gegewens van hulle leners sal verkry. Benewens besonderhede oor wat hulle leen en andersins te lees kry, kan bv. opgeteken word hul ras,

ouderdom, geslag, onderwyspeil, woonadres, beroep e.d.m. Die gegewens kan op 'n sentrale plek verwerk word en 'n komitee kan aangestel word om die gegewens te vertolk en die verslag op te stel. Geldelike staatsteun behoort vir so 'n ondersoek verkry te word. Is dit nie ondersoek wat dadelik aangepak kan word nie? Dit sal die moeite loon.

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MR. M. M. STIRLING

*Citation on the presentation of an illuminated address**

"WITH THE retirement of Mr. Stirling next April a truly remarkable career will come to an end, or rather one should say, a phase of that career, for it is most improbable that Mr. Stirling will keep away for long from some form of library work.

Having come to the Union from Glasgow as a youth in 1906 in search of health, Mr. Stirling served an apprenticeship of some half-dozen years at the Johannesburg Public Library, before becoming Librarian at Germiston. Here the qualities which have characterized him throughout his career soon became apparent. An ardent reader with the most catholic tastes and sympathies, ranging from the profoundest classics to the most intriguing "detectives", he has always been consumed with an urge to bring books to whomsoever might need them. "Give the people light and they will find their own way", he has always been wont to say, and he has devoted his life to spreading the light of books into every possible corner of the country.

Long before there was any organized library movement in the Union Mr. Stirling had begun to move on his own. As early as 1915 he pioneered rural library services by admitting country subscribers to membership of the Germiston Public Library. One can imagine him struggling with pathetically inadequate resources - though always with the warm support of the Municipality - to get supplies of books introduced into the country districts.

Everywhere he began spreading the gospel of a *free* rural library service, actively supported, among others, by Mr. Charles Christie. He received enthusiastic response from the Transvaal Agricultural Union, particularly the Women's Section, which has always been a strong social force. By 1928 he persuaded Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, then Administrator of the Transvaal, to support his scheme with a token grant, and the Transvaal Farmers' Free Library (later Transvaal Rural Free Library) came into being. It proved a tremendous success, but it placed a heavy burden on Mr. Stirling and his staff,

* Delivered by the President, Miss Elizabeth Hartmann, at the State Library, Pretoria, 1 October, 1957.

who continued to operate the scheme from the Germiston Library.

It was a gallant scheme gallantly conceived without much encouragement. When it finally fructified in the Transvaal Provincial Library Organization Mr. Stirling became a member of the Advisory Library Committee on which he remained until it was re-organized a few years ago.

Not only rural libraries claimed Mr. Stirling's attention. He was an ardent champion of a nationwide system of free libraries and the movement for the conversion of subscription libraries into free rate-supported institutions may be attributed directly to his influence.

In 1918 Mr. Stirling sowed the seed of a central circulating library system for schools. He obtained a grant from the Transvaal Education Department, and inaugurated the service, again under his direction at the Germiston Public Library. This service, too, was later, when its value had been patently demonstrated, absorbed into a provincially administered organization.

But official interest in libraries was slow to develop, and it was Mr. Stirling once more who aroused the sympathetic interest of Dr. Keppel, the President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, not only in the library situation in the Transvaal but in the library movement throughout the Union. We owe an immense debt to Dr. Keppel. In fact we owe the initiation of our Association to him. And Mr. Stirling was Dr. Keppel's trusted adviser.

It was at Dr. Keppel's suggestion that the Carnegie Commissioners, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Pitt, visited the Union in 1928. During this visit the historic Bloemfontein Conference was held, which led directly to the formation of the South African Library Association, and the beginning of our organized library movement. Mr. Stirling was appointed by the Carnegie Corporation as Travelling Organizer of Libraries in the Union. In the 1930's there was hardly a librarian in the country who did not know Mr. Stirling. He was everybody's guide, philosopher and friend. Always this

"wee Scotch thistle" had an apt suggestion, born of wide experience and sympathetic understanding, a flow of inimitable humour and a fund of telling maxims, a favourite one of which was: "Let cheerfulness abound with industry." With a word of approval and encouragement he made even the humblest librarians feel that they were doing something worthwhile and spurred them on to forge ahead with the development of their libraries.

Anyone in need of books was Mr. Stirling's concern, and he early turned his thoughts to the non-Europeans. He persuaded the Carnegie Corporation of our great need in this direction, too, and elicited a grant to start non-European services in each of the four Provinces. He became chairman of the Transvaal Carnegie Non-European Library, has been an active promoter of its development ever since, and is still vice-chairman of the reorganized Non-European Library Service, Transvaal.

A logical corollary to the provision of these services was their co-ordination into a national system. Shortly after he was appointed to the post of State Librarian, in 1931, he inaugurated the National Lending Department, available for non-fiction borrowing to any library in the country. Off-shoots of this Department were the now so familiar Inter-Library Loan Service, and the National Union Catalogue which is in process of compilation.

In recognition of all these services the Carnegie Corporation in 1936 awarded to Mr. Stirling its Bronze Medal, an honour of which all his South African colleagues may be justly proud.

When the South African Library Association was formed it was a natural choice for Mr. Stirling to become its organizing secretary, and for twelve years it was a common saying that Mr. Stirling *was* the Association. As Honorary

secretary he bore single-handed, with no assistant as we have to-day, the whole burden of organization and administration. Many of us remember the kindly notes in his own handwriting which would often accompany a subscription receipt or a notice about a vacation school. The vacation schools themselves were the children of his enterprise, and became a potent force in nurturing the professional consciousness of our younger librarians and those from the smaller towns and villages.

After handing over the burden of the secretaryship in 1942, Mr. Stirling guided the destinies of the Association as its President from 1943 to 1946.

Looking back over the period of Mr. Stirling's activities in the South African library world, i.e. the 27 years since the formation of the Association and the preceding years of preliminary work, one may well be astonished at the volume of achievement, and more especially at the rate of development in every direction. There have always been librarians and sympathizers of high calibre, but their attention in those early days was absorbed more by their own immediate libraries. Few had the vision and none the driving power of Mr. Stirling. He was the master architect of the whole library movement. If the foundations of all the branches of library activities just outlined had not been so well and truly laid in the beginning, it would surely have taken very much longer before the edifice had reached its present stature.

For all this, Mr. Stirling, you have won the greatest admiration of your friends and colleagues in the South African Library Association and we now ask you to accept this address as a small tangible expression of our great regard and gratitude."

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MR. CHARLES CHRISTIE: AN APPRECIATION*

"Last year when the Executive Committee was discussing details of the presentation to Dr. Killie Campbell of the Honorary Fellowship of our Association, we were reminded that when a similar honour had been conferred on Mr. Charles Christie in 1951 we as an Association had been too modest and too impecunious to think in terms of ceremonial presentations and illuminated certificates. Our appreciation of Mr. Christie's services was conveyed in a bald statement in the *Newsletter*.

It now seemed appropriate that Mr Christie's Honorary Fellowship should also be recorded in a more worthy form, and it was decided that an illuminated certificate should be offered to him when the Conference was held in his home town in 1957. So it is that I have this welcome opportunity of recalling to you the services for which the Honorary Fellowship was awarded to Mr. Christie in 1951.

"No layman", said the 1951 *Newsletter* citation, "has had a finer influence on our work or a longer association with it". It is not only through the various offices he held that Mr. Christie has served the cause of libraries. More particularly his personal qualities have made and left a distinctive impress on our professional world.

If one quality could be singled out above others, it would be his fine scholarship, the envy and inspiration of librarians old and young. Whether he is addressing a conference, a branch meeting, a vacation school, or writing for our journal, his words are a feast of erudition and literary elegance.

His scholarship and love of books express themselves naturally in an intense belief in the calling of libraries, and librarians, and a keen interest in their development.

Added to his knowledge of books is a wide knowledge of men and affairs, and his contacts in official circles have been of the greatest value to the library movement.

It is difficult to convey a sense of the warm personal interest he has always infused into all his associations. Whether it was a major

undertaking such as a rural library scheme, or an individual matter like the preparation of a report or the publishing of a book, he was ever ready with advice, encouragement, practical participation and often financial help.

These same qualities which inspired us as librarians have served the cause of libraries equally in the outside world.

As far back as 1930 Mr. Christie became a member of the State Library Board, of which he has been Vice-Chairman from 1936 to the present day. In 1928 he represented the State Library at the momentous Bloemfontein Conference and since then there have been few fields of library activity in which he has not taken an active part.

Mr. Christie became a life member of the South African Library Association at its inception in 1930. He was a member of the Administrative Council from the beginning until 1950, and a member of the Education Committee from 1934 to 1942, and he served as President for the triennium 1940-1943.

For more than twenty years he regularly attended Conferences which, to quote again, "were made more pleasurable and profitable by his presence".

In 1931 he was a leading force in the formation of the Transvaal Branch, the pioneer of the seven branches that exist to-day, and he was its Chairman for 1938-39.

He was one of the prime movers in the rural library schemes in this country, addressing frequent gatherings of different kinds and working closely with Mr. Stirling, the father of rural library services in the Union. Mr. Christie has been Vice-Chairman of the Transvaal Provincial Library Advisory Committee, and its successor, the Transvaal Provincial Library Board, since its inception in 1941.

Non-European library services also claimed his attention and he has served on the Committee of the Non-European Library Service, Transvaal, and its predecessors since 1944.

As a member of the Carnegie Visitors Grants Committee he was instrumental in securing opportunities for South African librarians to travel abroad.

To this day, too, Mr. Christie is member

* Delivered by the President, Miss Elizabeth Hartmann, on presenting the certificate of Honorary Fellowship, Pretoria, 30 September 1957.

and secretary of the Carnegie Library Development Fund, established in 1933.

The extent and value of Mr. Christie's services may be gauged from the fact that, in 1936, the Carnegie Corporation of New York presented to him its Bronze Medal.

It was for all this that in 1951 the South African Library Association conferred on Mr. Christie its Honorary Fellowship, and it gives me great pleasure now to set the seal on that award by presenting this formal certificate."

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DIE OPKOMS VAN DIE STAATSBIBLIOTEEK EN SY PLANNE VIR BEVORDERING VAN DIE NEDERLANDSE BOEK¹

deur

DR. G. W. EYBERS

Voorsitter, Raad van Kuratore, Staatsbiblioteek

DIE ONTSTAAN en die groei van die Staatsbiblioteek kan vandag beskou word teen die agtergrond van die politieke en ekonomiese geskiedenis van die Transvaal en van Suid-Afrika ; en dit is waarskynlik eers dan dat dit vir die meeste van ons belangrik en interessant word. Ons weet reeds hoe die Transvaal deur blankes bewoon geraak het. Dit was een van die uitvloeiels van die Groot Trek, of liewers, moet ek sê, dit was 'n deel van die Groot Trek. Ons weet verder van die wederwaardighede van die jong Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek, later gewoonweg die Transvaal, tot vandag toe.

Ons weet veel van die ekonomiese ontwikkeling van die gebied – die landbou, die mynwese, die handel en die nywerhede. Maar wat die geskiedenis gewoonlik nie aan ons vertel nie, is hoe die bende trekkers en stryders 'n beskaafde kultuurvolk geword het. Hoe het die intellektuele lewe van die bevolking tot groter wasdom ontluk ? Wat het dit aangewakker ?

Ons sal vind dat in daardie proses *die boek* 'n belangrike rol gespeel het. Die belangrikheid daarvan is vroeg besef deur manne soos Dr. Roorda-Smit, Paul Kruger, Rev. Gray, Leyds, Mansveld, Weavind, Fred Jeppe, F.T. Nicolson, E. F. Bourke en Dr. Engelenburg, om maar die belangrikste van die manne te noem wat met die opbou van 'n boekeversameling in die hoofstad van die ou Republiek 'n leidende rol gespeel het. Die geskiedenis van die Staatsbiblioteek is deel van die geskiedenis van die intellektuele ontwikkeling van Transvaal en dus van die Unie van Suid-Afrika. Laat ons dan die geskiedenis van die Biblioteek kortliks nagaan.

Maar eers bring ek 'n paar welbekende gebeurtenisse in die geskiedenis van die Re-

publiek, met hulle datums, weer in herinnering ; want die intellektuele geskiedenis van 'n land, veral van 'n jong land, is gewoonlik ineengestrengel met sy politieke en ekonomiese geskiedenis en hier in Transvaal was dit nie anders nie. Buitendien staan die oorsprong van die Staatsbiblioteek in die nouste verband met een van die gewigtigste gebeurtenisse in sy politieke geskiedenis, n.l. die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog.

In 1877, aan die begin van die jaar, annekteer Shepstone die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek.

1877–80 : Paul Kruger en sy mense talm in hul verset omdat daar oorloë met die Bantoe aan die gang was en omdat hulle gehoop het om Groot Brittanje tot teruggawe van hul onafhanklikheid te beweeg langs vredesame weg. Engeland en verskeie Europese lande – waaronder Nederland – word deur die Transvalse Drieman kap met die doel besoek.

Desember 1880 : 'n groot vergadering van tussen 5,000 en 6,000 burgers vind plaas by Paardekraal.

Op Dingaansdag, 1880, word die vierkleur weer op Heidelberg gehys en die oorlog begin.

28 Januarie 1881 : die slag by Laingsnek, gevolg deur die slag by Bronkhorstspruit.

27 Februarie 1881 : Majuba.

3 Augustus 1881 : Konvensie van Pretoria.

Die drie leiers se besoek aan Europa tydens die Britse regime in Transvaal het veel opspraak veroorsaak. Veral in Nederland is Kruger en sy manne met veel goedgesindheid en meegevoel ontvang. Holland het weer bewus geword van sy verwantskap met sy stamgenote in Suid-

¹ Uittreksels uit 'n reeks radio-praatjies gedurende die tweede helfte van 1957 gelewer en met die toestemming van die skrywer gepubliseer.

Afrika en het tasbare bewyse gelewer van sy belangstelling in hulle vryheidskamp. Direk het daardie aangewakkerde belangstelling aanleiding gegee tot 'n brief uit Leiden gedateer 25 Julie 1882 en gerig aan die here S.J.P. Kruger, M. W. Pretorius en P. J. Joubert „uitmakende de Voorlopige Regering van die Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek”. Dit is in die keurigste handskrif – *skooneskrif* kan jy maar sê – in die Argief in Pretoria bewaar. In dié brief deel die Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde mee dat hy besluit het om 'n versameling van die beste Nederlandse boeke aan die Transvaalse volk te sken.

Op 4 September 1882 aanvaar die Regering van die Republiek die aanbod uit Leiden met dank, „te meer”, so verklaar hulle, „daar sedert geruimen tyd byna uitsluitend Engelse litteratuur wordt ingevoerd, en de rykdom der Nederlandsche letterkunde hier grootendeels onbekend is. „De Regering”, so lui die brief verder, „zal by ontvangst onder te maken regelmenten, de versameling toeganklik stellen voor het publiek en van gemelde Regelmenten een copy zenden aan uwe Maatschappij”.

„Ook onse wensch is steeds in nauwer gemeenschap te blyven met het oude Moederland, door ons steeds hoog geacht, en nu te meer na zoo vele blyken van troue vriendschap in tyden van druk . . . Het streven der Regering sal steeds zyn onze onafhanklikheid te bewaren, en in de kring der beschafde natien voortdurend gerangschikt te zyn.”

In dieselfde jaar waarin Leiden hierdie mooi geskenk gemaak het, het die bestuur van die Nederlandse Bybelgenootskap te Amsterdam ook 'n present aan die Regering aangebied in die vorm van 100 Bybels en ander godsdienstige werke. Die twee besendings is in 8 kiste gepak en het Pretoria oor Durban veilig bereik. In die Staatskoerant is destyds aangekondig dat die boeke uit Leiden bestaan het uit wetenskaplike publikasies en algemene Nederlandse letterkunde – dus 'n goeie kern vir 'n Staatsbibliotheek.

'n Derde geskenk van boeke in daardie selfde jaar 1882 is deur die Portugese Konsul in Pretoria gemaak. Hulle het uit wetenskaplike werke bestaan – dus weer studiemateriaal. Tydens die aanbieding van daardie versameling het die Konsul, Majoor Machado, te kenne gegee dat verdere werke van Portugal sou volg, 'n belofte wat ook onlangs nagekom is toe die Portugese Regering nog weer aan die

Staatsbibliotheek 'n baie mooi versameling aangebied, wat met groot waardering in ontvangen geneem is.

Dié drie skenkings was onmiddelik te danke aan die besoeke wat die Krugerdiemanskap by die Europese moondhede afgelê het.

Die drie versamelings was 'n waardevolle kern vir 'n Goewermentsbibliotheek. Maar hulle was nie die enigste versamelings wat opgeneem moes word nie. Daar was nog twee ander, en wel ouer, versamelings.

Die eerste het bestaan uit 'n aantal boeke wat veral onder leiding van Dr. J. A. Roorda-Smit, die Hoof van die Gimnasium te Pretoria, vanaf 1876, toe hy deur Pres. Burgers uit Nederland na Transvaal gebring is, byeengebring is. Dit was 'n vrugbare tyd van intellektuele groei vir die Republiek en veral vir Pretoria, tydens die bewind van President Burgers, want naas die Gimnasium het dit ook die begin gesien van 'n botaniiese tuin, die Burgerspark, 'n Staatsmuseum en die boekerversamelings waaruit die Staatsbibliotheek spoedig sou ontstaan.

Die tweede versameling boeke in die jong maar groeiende dorp Pretoria is onderneem deur Rev. Weavind wat in 1878, tydens die Britse bewind, Dr. Roorda-Smit se voorbeeld gevolg het. Hy en sy vriende het Engelse werke byeengebring by wyse van skenkings en deur aankope. Hulle het hul boekery, genoem „The Public Library”. Dit was 'n gewone leenbibliotheek en subskripsies was betaalbaar.

Dit is waarskynlik dat hierdie twee partikuliere of nie-offisiële versamelings saamgesmelt het, want toe die Regeringsversamelings ontvang is en in 'n bepaalde boekery gesit is, was daar blykbaar slegs een privaat biblioteek, n.l. die „Public Library”.

Met die einde van die Britse bewind in 1881 het sommige van die Engelssprekendes vertrek en het die „Public Library”, wat al nie 'n baie bloeiende bestaan gevoer het nie, gekwyn. In die volgende jaar toe die Regeringsversamelings ontvang word, is daar deur die Regering en die „Public Library” samesprekings begin wat op die samesmelting van die twee versamelings onder die naam „Staatsbibliotheek” uitgeeloop het.

Die „Public Library” het hoofsaaklik uit verhalende lektuure bestaan. Hier ontstaan dus reeds die tweeledige funksie van die Staatsbibliotheek. Dit is 'n Staatsbibliotheek vir ernstige studie maar ook 'n leen-biblioteek vir die inwoners van dorp en omgewing.

Die Regering het die nuwe inrigting van huisvesting voorsien, 'n bibliotekaris benoem, en dit onder die leiding van die Onderwysdepartement gestel.

Onder die bibliotekarisse wat met toewyding hulle werksaamhede behartig het, was manne soos A. J. Begemann (1887-93); Jan F. Celliers (1893-9), wat met die begin van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog in 1899 sy betrekking as bibliotekaris neergelê het om op kommando te gaan en na die krygsoperasies naam gemaak het as digter; die geleerde R. W. Heaton (1902-31) in wie se tyd die Biblioteek in 1916 'n kopieregbiblioteek geword het; en die huidige Bibliotekaris, M. M. Stirling (1931 tot sy aftreetyd in 1958), onder wie se leiding die Biblioteek oorgeslaan het van 'n subskripsiebiblioteek na 'n vry biblioteek volgens moderne praktyk en 'n landswye leendiens ontwikkel het. Die onlangs oorlede kunstenaar, J. H. Pieneef, het van 1912 tot 1920 as assistent in die biblioteek gewerk.

Wat betref die geboue waarin ons Biblioteek van tyd tot tyd gehuisves was, moes die inrigting sowat vyfkeer verhuis voordat dit sy huidige tuiste finala bereik het. Dit was eers in Pretoriussstraat waar die Koedoe-apteek tans staan, daarna op die Plein waar die Paleis van Justisie vandag staan, toe in die Erasmusgebou (die huidige Equity-gebou) vervolgens na die latere Reservewebank-gebou in Kerkstraat. Eers in 1919 is die standplaas van vandag betrek, in Andriesstraat. Die Departement Publieke Werke was die argitek en ons ou vriend mnr. Corbishley was die boumeester.

* * *

Toe een van die lede van die Raad van Kuratore van die Staatsbiblioteek in 1955 van die Kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging te Port Elizabeth teruggekeer het met die gedagte dat daar érens in ons land 'n groot versameling Nederlandse werke tot stand behoort te kom, het die Raad meteens die belangrikheid van die gedagte ingesien en daar

sorgvuldige aandag aan gegee. Daardie gedagte is eers deur die Nederlandse professor W. A. P. Smit tydens sy besoek aan Suid-Afrika enige jare gelede uitgespreek, en dit is in 1955 weer deur professor W. E. G. Louw van Grahamstad, in die loop van 'n lesing te Port Elizabeth genoem.

Op die maandvergadering van die Raad op 6 Februarie 1956 gehou, is besluit om 'n onderkomitee te benoem om op die saak in te gaan.

Vir twee jaar ontvang hierdie saak reeds nougesette aandag. Verskeie vergaderings van die onderkomitee is gehou en aan die Raad het ons van tyd tot tyd verslag gedoen. Die Raad het met die menings akkoord gegaan, en het by geleentheid verder gedagtes uitgespreek en wenke gegee. Dit is vir my 'n behoefte en 'n bron van blydskap om te meld dat hoewel die lede van die Raad ongeveer om die helfte Afrikaans- en Engelssprekend is, hulleoor hierdie kwessie van die Nederlandse boek met een stem praat.

Dit is des te meer treffend en verblydend omdat, terwyl dit uit 'n dieper besef van die kultuurbelange van die volk van Suid-Afrika duidelik tot voordeel van almal is dat ons bevolking deur die ouer beschawing van Nederland ook verryk word, erken moet word dat die poging waarmee ons besig is, meer onmiddellik en direk die kennis en kultuur van die *Afrikaans-sprekendes* sal bevorder.

Maar laat my maar meteens sê dat die doel wat die Staatsbiblioteek met hierdie onderneming beoog, tweërlei is:

- (a) In die eerste plek om 'n so volledig moontlike versameling van alle gepubliseerde Nederlandse, insluitende Vlaamse, tekste in Suid-Afrika op te bou;
- (b) Ten tweede om stelselmatig en doelbewus soveel van ons bevolking as moontlik toe te rus, en begerig te maak, om van die versameling gebruik te maak.

NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICES IN PRETORIA

by

MARGARET PETERS

Transvaal Non-European Library Service

THE NON-EUROPEAN Library Service Transvaal, was formerly known as the Carnegie Non-European Library. From 1947-56 this library was administered jointly with the former Transvaal Education Department's Native Teachers' Library; the T.E.D. supplied us with premises and staff, and the committee of the Carnegie library assisted with supervision and advice, and helped the six non-European clerks with their studies for S.A.L.A. examinations.

In 1956 we were informed that these premises would no longer be available. We separated our bookstock of some 8,000 volumes and moved to new and central premises.

We had lost the services of the clerks of the Bantu Education Department, and we had thus to curtail our country library services so that our two Committee clerks could handle the entire library. We closed 40 centres, retaining only 8 of our box centres.

The library has thus been converted largely into a lending library for individuals now that we are unable to act as a feeder to our country depots. We have about 800 members. Between 600 and 700 readers use the library each month (In August, 1957 some 400 adults and 350 children came for books. A total of 750 readers withdrew 1,218 books during the month.) The 1956 circulation figure was about 7,000 but we expect the 1957 figure to be considerably higher. This figure does not include the issue figures at centres. We have found it difficult to obtain reliable figures from many of our depot libraries. Now that we have fewer centres we are hoping to keep a closer check on the circulation at these centres.

This is a completely free service. It is interesting to note that in 1955 when 4,000 books were issued to centres, only 37 were listed as lost

books. This is a satisfactorily small total. Out of 7,000 issued in the library fewer than 10 books are still listed as missing.

Africans, Indians and Coloureds make use of our service. On a busy day the library will issue over 100 books. About 200 members make use of a postal service. Our inter-library loan service exists with other libraries and every effort is made to help readers.

The library is administered on an annual grant from the Transvaal Provincial Council of £600. Several municipalities contribute annual amounts which vary from £10 to £25. In 1955, Benoni, Germiston, Krugersdorp, Roodepoort-Maraisburg, Springs and Vereeniging contributed towards the Non-European Library Service, Transvaal.

This library with its present financial difficulties is serving an excellent purpose in library work for non-Europeans for the following reasons :

- (i) It is a free library.
- (ii) The library is centrally situated.
- (iii) The library is supervised by trained European librarians who assist in matters of library routine and to whom the non-European library assistants can turn for advice.
- (iv) The library is administered by an active library committee of Europeans who meet regularly to discuss the affairs of this library.
- (v) Members are encouraged to come personally to choose their own books and are helped with advice when necessary. Postal service is offered to all who cannot come personally.
- (vi) This library is not attached to any educational or social welfare service.

Members of staff are librarians and have no other educational or social welfare activities to perform.

THE NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRETORIA

The Council allows £500 annually for the administration of non-European libraries in the Pretoria area. The Social Welfare Department of the Municipality is responsible for library service and library workers are really social welfare officials and have other duties apart from their work in the library. At present a deposit system operates in all libraries, 5s. 6d. per adult and 2s. 6d. per child.

There are libraries at Attridgeville, Dougal Hall and at Vlakfontein, and a service is being planned for Lady Selborne.

The library at Attridgeville is housed in a very small building, but £1000 has been set aside for a new and central building in this location. The bookstock is very good for a popular library of this kind but the deposit system seems largely responsible for the lack of interest in the library. There are only 10 registered borrowers. The librarian does some work in connection with the schools in the location. Whenever a teacher is unable to take a class the principal sends the class to the library. The library closes at 8 p.m. and does not open on Saturdays. It is not used much by city workers.

The Dougal Hall library at Marabastad is poorly situated and is used mainly by children. A library has been opened at Vlakfontein at the community centre with gifts of books. Books will also be purchased for this library.

If one might venture to express an opinion at this stage it seems evident that social welfare departments cannot be expected to administer libraries and that librarians should not be required to do any work other than that of bringing books to their people. The non-European librarians employed by the Municipality do not at present as far as I am aware enjoy any assistance from trained European librarians. The position was different some years ago when a Pretoria Non-European Libraries committee under the chairmanship of Mr. M. M. Stirling gave regular help and advice to the non-European librarians employed by the Pretoria Municipality.

KILNERTON TRAINING COLLEGE

Kilnerton Institution has a library consisting of some 5,000 volumes. This is largely a student lending library with a special purpose. The library is called upon to assist students with the preparation of a lesson. Students are brought into the library and the librarian shows them what material the library possesses on a certain project, e.g., "The Great Lakes of America". The "Quick reference" collection of this library is particularly good.

Unfortunately the library has no annual grant and is badly in need of funds to purchase books. Kilnerton supplements its stock by borrowing from other libraries. The bookstock consists largely of gifts. The fiction section requires attention when funds are available.

The library is housed in a delightful building and has an atmosphere of peace and quietness. The students have recently completed a wall mural in mosaic which is very beautiful.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

A survey of non-European libraries in Pretoria would not be complete without reference to the excellent work done for non-European students by the library of the University of South Africa, which serves only students taking courses offered by the University. Non-Europeans enjoy the same service as Europeans. About 1 out of every 3 students using the library is a Non-European. Up to the present a deposit of £2, was required per student using the library but from next year each student registered with the University will pay £1. Non-Europeans can choose their books or write in for what they require. They pay only the return postage. Next year new buildings will be erected with special facilities for both European and non-European students.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS

Native Teachers' Library of the Bantu Education Department Transvaal Region

This library, which since 1939 has played an important part in supplying library services to teachers and students of the Transvaal Education Department was closed in August,

but it will be integrated later into the emerging library service of the Department of Native Affairs. The old service has been formally disestablished, but an equivalent number of posts has been created and placed on the establishment of the information service of the Native Affairs Department.

The library has a bookstock of some 5,500 volumes and from 1947-56 was re-organized to share premises and staff with the former Carnegie Non-European Library. In 1956 there were 600 members and a clerical staff of 6. Unfortunately, with its future uncertain, no books have been purchased for several years and the librarians have had to depend on inter-library loans to meet the requirements of their readers. The library service was free but the premises were regarded as inaccessible, and after May 1956 the librarians reported a remarkable falling off of the circulation due to the removal of the books belonging to the former Carnegie Non-European Library (from 600 to 200 and less per month).

The former Transvaal Education Department never recognized appeals from the committee of the former Carnegie Non-European for professional status for non-European librarians who remained on a clerical basis and were likely to be transferred at any time to another branch of the service. Several of the staff returned to teaching, others having passed the elementary examinations of the S.A.L.A. have been transferred to other positions where they cannot make use of their library training.

Service to schools

Library service was started during the past year to Government schools, community schools, farm schools, mine and factory schools. If funds permit the Department assists.

- (a) *Primary Schools* - in the lowest classes 3d. per scholar based on registration in the 4th quarter of the previous year.
- (b) *Higher Primary Schools* - Std. III-VI, 6d. per scholar - on some basis of registration.

The subsidy must be spread evenly, as far as possible between books in English, Afrikaans and Bantu languages.

Only books on the approved departmental list can be bought.

All new schools can apply to join this service once they have rendered their first quarterly statement. Unfortunately I have found it

difficult to obtain any direct information from schools using this service at present.

- (c) *Post-primary schools*. Subsidies are on £1 for £1 basis to a maximum of 6d. per year per student based on the registration at the end of the previous year.

Officials of the Bantu Education Department state that there is a library service to Native teachers, of which the Native Teachers' Library, Pretoria is an example. Services fall under the Regional directors stationed at Pretoria, Pietersburg, Bloemfontein, Umtata, King Williamstown and Pietermaritzburg. The whole service falls under the Native Affairs Department.

Department of Native Affairs, head office, Pretoria

There is a small technical library consisting of law books and a few ethnological publications at the head office of the Department of Native Affairs. This library is used mainly by the European officials of the Department. Non-Europeans are not debarred from using the library but they seldom do so.

Officials of the Department are considering extending their library services and when this happens there will be :

- (i) a central collection of books in Pretoria to serve regional libraries who will in turn serve the district libraries organized by the Department.
- (ii) There will be a Technical library service organized at headquarters Pretoria for the use of officials of the Department, European and non-European.
- (iii) there will be library services organized at points in Pretoria to serve (a) city workers ; (b) location dwellers.

It is hoped that the Department will follow the practice of established library services in South Africa and make library service to the Bantu people free. If the Department does not do so then their ideas of promoting adult education will never spread to the mass of the Bantu population of South Africa.

Part of the scheme will include the training of Bantu librarians. For this purpose the syllabi of the South African Library Association have been made available to the Chief Information officer of the Native Affairs Department. It is understood that the Department will consider giving its Bantu librarians professional status within the Department.

In this way library service should form a separate division within the Department not being subordinated to or linked with the Department's social work and educational activities.

Department of Education, Arts and Science
The service formerly offered by this Department to non-Europeans has been suspended and the bookstock has been transferred to the Department of Native Affairs.

KORRESPONDENSIE

Geagte Redaksie,

U resensent, „Gulliver”, in die Oktober 1957 uitgawe (bladsye 69-70) hang 'n baie eensydige prentjie op oor die vordering van die Kaapse Provinciale Biblioteekdiens die afgelope paar jaar. Noulettend gesien, was daar in die oë van „Gulliver” geen vooruitgang nie, maar agteruitgang. Is genoemde heer bewus van al die struikelblokke wat – danksy die voortdurende en volgehoue hulp van leke en bibliotekaris – oorwin moes word om die owerhede daartoe te kry om deur wetgewing regpersoonlikheid aan die diens te gee en billike geldelike uitgawes daarvoor te stem? Sou genoemde „Gulliver” die naam van een bibliotekaris in ons land kon noem wat met soveel ywer en toewyding en die besteding van byna bomenslike energie in iets meer as twee jaar soveel kon bereik as wat tans verkry is?

As iemand wat in die begin-stadium met die skema te doen had, kan ek met die grootste vrymoedigheid verklaar dat ek eenvoudig verstom staan oor die vordering wat gemaak is!

Dis goed dat daar op gebreke en gevare in die diens gewys word, maar dan is dit net so goed en nodig om te bemoedig en aan te prys waar soveel mylpale enige reggesinde en onbevoordeelde critikus in die gesig staar. (Waarom verswyg hy dit?) Hoe anders vergelyk dit met die beskouings van mej. Margareet Wynstroomb van Nederland wat 'n tydlang in ons land vertoef het en die geleentheid gehad het om die Kaapse skema ter plaatse te leer ken. Sy is in

die wolke oor wat sy gesien het en in 'n onlangse nommer van die *Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant* lever sy besondere gunstige kommentaar.

Sy wys o.a. daarop dat boeke verskaf moes word aan ongeveer 750,000 Blankes en min of meer ewe veel Kleurlinge in 'n gebied wat byna so groot as Frankryk en Duitsland saam is. Na aanleiding van die opbouing van 'n groot versameling boeke vra sy: wat help die strewe na tegniese volmaaktheid van katalogusse, ens. in Nederland as daar nie genoeg boeke is om op die rakke te plaas nie? Wat die kunsafdrukke betref, sê sy: „Het doet het Nederlandse hart goed reproduksies uit het Ryksmuseum de kamer van een afgelegen 'boereplaas' te zien sieren; en als men er op uitgekeken is, ruilt men het 'schildery' gewoon om.”

Sy is besonder beïndruk deur die sukses van die Kaapse Provinciale Biblioteekdiens en wys daarop dat dikwels binne 'n maand nadat die skema op 'n bepaalde dorp begin is, sowat 50 persent van die blanke bevolking as lesers ingeskryf is – op sommige kleiner dorpe is die persentasie selfs 80 persent! Dan vergelyk sy die toestand met dié van Nederland, waar 'n Openbare Leeszaal na jare se harde werk hoogs tevreden is met 'n inskrywing van tien persent! Sy verkondig dit as die waarheid dat „wat men in die Kaaprovincie in deze drie jaren gepresteerd heeft, grenst aan het ongelooflike”.

Pretoria,
Januarie 1958.

S. J. KRITZINGER

A PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA, CONSIDERED AS A NATIONAL RESOURCE¹

by

HAZEL MEWS

Formerly Chief Information Officer, S.A. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

SCIENTIFIC information services have played an important part in the "scientific revolution" of our times and the necessity for the continued development of these services is receiving increasing recognition in practically every country in the world. Most of the existing services grew up in a piecemeal fashion but there are now signs of a widespread movement to integrate them into more efficient national services. Considered as a national resource they are potentially as useful in their own way as any other national resource, material or intellectual, provided they are wisely exploited and planned. The British Advisory Council on Scientific Policy recently "emphasized once again the importance which we attach to an adequate national service of scientific reference and lending libraries, as an essential tool in disseminating the results of scientific research to industrial and other users". Scientific and technical information services are even more important as the essential background for continuing scientific and technical achievement in a young country than in the older countries, and South Africa has the opportunity now to recognize the value of these services for the country's future progress.

Planning the development of these services will of necessity be a long-term project, and responsibility for carrying out any policy will naturally have to be shared amongst the various types of bodies concerned (the C.S.I.R., universities, technical colleges, public libraries, etc.). It would seem desirable however, that the overall policy should be considered by one

central body, possibly the new South African Advisory Council for Scientific Policy, which is in a position to see the picture as a whole. This body might perhaps consider the advisability of appointing a Scientific Library and Technical Information Committee (cf. the Scientific Library and Technical Information Committee of the Lord President of the Council in Britain).

The very tentative suggestions that follow are made in the belief that they should be put forward for attention at this stage of South Africa's scientific and industrial development.

As a basis for planning it will be necessary to have a fairly detailed survey of the scientific and technical library and information services in this country as they stand at the moment. This should include the work and function of the universities, the research institutions, the government departmental libraries in the field of science and medicine, the large public libraries with scientific and technical collections, and the central services already available in the C.S.I.R.

Against the background of existing services it is suggested that the following five points merit attention :

1. *The building up of scientific and technical information centres at strategic points in the country.*

The provision of regional information centres has received some attention in the past : in 1941

¹ Summary of a Memorandum presented to the President of C.S.I.R. on 6th June, 1957.

it was suggested to the South African Association for the Advancement of Science that properly equipped technical libraries should be set up in Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Port Elizabeth. Since that time the Johannesburg Public Library (together with the University of the Witwatersrand Library and the various specialized libraries in the Johannesburg area) may be said to afford an adequate service for the Witwatersrand, the C.S.I.R. Library has come into being in Pretoria and the new City Libraries of Cape Town are planning a technical library to be housed on the reclaimed foreshore. The C.S.I.R.'s own regional committees in Port Elizabeth and Durban have given some attention to the provision of better technical libraries in their own areas, in the first case based on the Port Elizabeth Technical College Library and in the second on the University of Natal Library in Durban. It is understood that local industrialists are being approached for financial help. These incipient plans could be considered in more detail as part of the overall plan and encouraged and, if necessary modified.

There are, however, two areas left untouched by any recent development known to the present writer, one is the Orange Free State and the other the North-Western Cape. There is a special need in the Kimberley area for some kind of scientific and technical library services to assist the great development based on the industrial minerals of the surrounding districts.

The kind of information centre visualised at these strategic points is one consisting of a collection of basic technical reference books and handbooks, covering the fields of any local scientific investigations and local industries, sets of basic abstracting journals such as *Chemical Abstracts*, *Engineering Index*, etc., and periodicals in constant demand (e.g. *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*). To avoid duplication and overlapping the centre should, where possible, be based at an existing local library, university, scientific institution or technical college and should co-operate with the whole inter-library loan system of the country, also making use of photographic services.

2. *The training of university students in the literature of their own subject and in the use of a modern library as a tool for finding the information they need.*

Since the 1948 Royal Society Scientific In-

formation Conference there has been a growing insistence overseas on the need for training scientists in the use of the literature on their own subject. The chemists and engineers seem to be alive to the necessity and Professor Mellon said in 1955 at the International Conference on the Documentation of Applied Chemistry that about 25 American universities gave courses to their students in chemical literature.

Some South African universities give instruction in the literature of the student's own subject, e.g. the University of Natal gives a series of bibliographical lectures to third year engineering students entitled *Sources of Technical Information* and an interesting development has been the course of orientation lectures planned by the new Professor of Engineering at the University of Pretoria. Such courses, however, seem to be the exception rather than the rule and few universities automatically give science students any adequate training in the use of a large library. The result is that many practising scientists and research workers in South Africa are not properly equipped to do adequate literature searches connected with their own projects.

The need for such training at the universities should be more widely realized here and co-operation between the universities' academic and library staffs is desirable to bring about an improvement and to devise courses of instruction suitable for the various disciplines. Universities and scientific institutions in the same area might co-operate in such courses.

3. *Encouragement for South African scientific institutions and factories to set up their own small information collections.*

No central or regional information centre can answer all the day-to-day enquiries that arise in a factory and each one needs a small basic collection of reference books in its own field. It eliminates waste and helps industry to help itself if some guidance can be given early on in the organization of these collections. The C.S.I.R. has done what it could in this direction : it issued *Books are Tools: the organization of small technical libraries for South African industry*, held seminars on scientific and technical information in Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban, and welcomes industrial staff to work for short periods in its own Library and Information Division. It is desirable that such work should continue

and be expanded, possibly with the co-operation of other libraries.

It is also important that South African industry should be made aware of the resources available to it, first in its own area and then in the country as a whole. As present resources are comparatively small it is imperative that such as exist should be as widely known as possible. The co-operation of local scientific societies, chambers of industry, etc., could be enlisted to spread information about information. It might be thought advisable at some future date to call a national conference (or regional conferences) of interested bodies, both purveyors and consumers of information.

Close touch should also be maintained with the many investigations already made and still going on overseas, into the actual needs and habits of scientists and industrialists with regard to library and information services.

4. *The training of information officers for the new scientific and technical libraries in this country should keep pace with latest developments overseas.*

There are now four university schools of librarianship in South Africa: Cape Town, Pretoria, Potchefstroom and the University of South Africa, as well as the courses offered by the senior examining body in this country, the South African Library Association.¹ With the tremendous growth of scientific and technical specialized libraries it would seem desirable that at least one of these institutions should give special attention to the training of those who are to work in such libraries. Perhaps the obvious one to specialize in this would be the University of the Witwatersrand School which is due to open in 1958.

There has been a great deal of discussion overseas about the training of information officers and librarians of technical libraries; in Britain, Aslib and the Library Association have recently given much thought to revised syllabuses. The subject is in the melting pot and very definite recommendations would be premature, but it is important for the future development of this country that the library schools should be definitely interested in this new orientation of professional training, and not remain aloof from a very significant trend.

¹ Two further courses were established in 1958, at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Witwatersrand respectively (*Ed.*).

5. *The provision of necessary bibliographical tools in the field of South African science, so that coverage is as complete as possible.*

The production of bibliographical tools is an important part of the information services of any country. A few of the tools already produced in South Africa may be listed as examples:

Catalogue of Union Periodicals.

Index to South African periodicals.

Register of Current Scientific Research at South African universities.

A report on the state of the Union with regard to such bibliographical tools might perhaps be asked for from the Bibliographical Committee of the South African Library Association and/or the South African National Documentation Committee (at present under the auspices of the South African Bureau of Standards); and these bodies might be invited to make recommendations as to gaps to be filled, priority of work, etc. The following are a few examples of some matters that might receive consideration:

- (1) Whether the Catalogue of Union Periodicals (Science, Technology and Medicine), at present being re-edited and revised in the C.S.I.R. Library and Information Division, should at some future date include holdings of libraries in countries in Africa South of the Sahara.
- (2) The need for a full and up-to-date list of South African scientific, technical and medical journals, with full details of publisher, periodicity, price, scope of articles, and whether abstracted in any overseas abstracting journals.
- (3) The need for a revised and up-to-date list of South African scientific, technical, medical and trade societies.
- (4) A Who's Who in South African science.

As well as publishing all the necessary bibliographical tools, South Africa should also play its part in the development in the techniques of documentation. Investigations into new techniques are being made all over the world, and this country needs to keep in touch with all the work that is going on, to adapt any methods applicable to its own problems, and to do research on its own behalf. Such research should also be of value to other small countries at a comparable stage of industrial development.

AFRIKAANSE LITERATUUR VAN DIE VIERDE KWARTAAL VAN 1957

deur

D. L. EHLERS

PROSA

Blignault, A. *Die vrolike lied.* Nasionale boekhandel.

Nog 'n versameling sketse deur die skryfster van *In klein maat* wat bo alle verwagting so 'n goeie ontvangs geniet het. Wat interessantheid en gehalte betref, handhaaf die skryfster hier die peil van haar eerste werk en ek is daarvan oortuig dat hierdie boek net soveel byval sal vind as die vorige een.

Fula, A. *Met erbarming, o Here.* Afrikaanse pers.

Dit is die tweede Afrikaanse roman van hierdie Bantoeskrywer. Sy eersteling het die onderskeiding te beurt gevall om in Duits vertaal en uitgegee te word – iets wat nie elke dag met 'n Afrikaanse boek gebeur nie. Alhoewel sy taalgebruik en verhaal heeltemal gangbaar is, kom die oordadige gebruik van *meneer* en *mevrou*, selfs in gesprekke tussen ou bekendes, darem bra onnatuurlik en styf voor.

Kwartet: Verhale van M. E. R., Elizabeth Eybers, Ina Rousseau en Henriëtte Grové. Nasionale boekhandel.

Liefhebbers van die Afrikaanse letterkunde is goed bekend met die verdienstelike prosawerk van M. E. R. en met die verse van Elizabeth Eybers en Ina Rousseau. Van die twee digteresse verskyn hier nou vir die eerste keer verhale van goeie gehalte in boekvorm. Dit is egter die eerste keer dat ek kennis maak met Henriëtte Grové. Ek was met haar prosa aangenaam verras. Haar werk verdien ons aandag en hou werklik groot belofte in.

Leroux, E. *Hilaria.* Culemborg.

Dis 'n vervolg op die skrywer se eersteling : *Die eerste lewe van Colet.* Wie in daardie boek belang gestel het, sal dus ook met hierdie een

wil kennis maak. Hierdie tweede poging om in die styl van Joyce en Virginia Woolf te skryf, bevredig my nie heeltemal nie. Ek wonder of daar veel verdienste steek in die navolging in die huidige tydsgewrig van 'n stylprocédé wat lank reeds oorsee as ouderwets beskou word.

Postma, M. *Totsiens, Talettie.* Balkema.

Nog 'n aflewering in die skryfster se amusante reeks oor die manewales van Talettie. Die tekening van die outannie is baie simpatiek en plek-plek nogal werklik grappig. Miskien sal die skryfster egter gerade wees om nie hierdie karakter oortyd te laat werk nie. Dit is baie mocilik om altyd snaaks te wees vir alle lesers.

Vermaas, H. J. *Die swartwitpens.* Nasionale boekhandel.

Net soos Achab in Melville se *Moby Dick* raak Tjaart in hierdie verhaal sonderling emotioneel verstrengel met die lotgevalle van die swartwitpens wat hy agtervolg. Maar hier hou die vergelyking tussen die twee boeke ook op. Tenoor *Moby Dick* vertoon hierdie boek soos snoek teenoor 'n walvis en om die twee op letterkundige gebied te vergelyk sal ook nie regverdig teenoor mnr. Vermaas wees nie. Tog skryf hy 'n saaklike, beheerde prosa, wars van al die tierlantynjies en grootdoenerigheid wat so baie van die Afrikaanse verhale ontsier en om hierdie rede verdien hy ons aandag.

LEWENSBE SKRYWINGS EN GESKIEDENIS

Bouws, J. *Suid-Afrikaanse komponiste van vandag en gister.* Balkema.

Hier is 'n simpatieke beschouwing van Suid-Afrikaanse komponiste en hul werk. Almal wat in ons kultuurlewe belang stel, sal hierdie

boekie verwelkom. Ek vind dit egter jammer dat die skrywer nie sy boek 'n bietjie meer volledig gemaak het en persone soos Everson, Swane-poel en Lemmer ook ingesluit het nie. 'n Klein misverstand moet ek darem uit die weg ruim: Bosman di Ravelli het nie die lewe waarwel gesê in Europa soos beweer word nie, maar is nog steeds in die land van die lewendes en wat meer is, woon nou weer na jare in die land van sy geboorte.

Coetzee, G. *Hans Strydom*. Tafelberg-uitgewers.

'n Kort lewensskets van Suid-Afrika se vyfde eerste minister sedert Unie. Baie van die interessante fases van mnr. Strydom se vroeë loopbaan word nie vermeld nie. Die grootste waarde van die boek lê ongetwyfeld in die relaas van die gebeurtenisse wat gelei het tot mnr. Strydom se opvolging van Dr. D. F. Malan as eerste minister. Tussen hakies kan hier gesê word dat Dr. Malan se kant van hierdie verhaal later hierdie jaar in beide Engels en Afrikaans gepubliseer sal word. Die skrywer doen m.i. egter sy werk skade aan deur teen die end as profeet te probeer optree. In hierdie verband het hy nie die nodige onderskeidingsvermoë aan die dag gelê nie. Hy het vergeet dat die taak van die objektiewe biograaf hemelsbreed verskil van dié van die politieke beriggewer.

De Kock, W. J. *Portugese ontdekkers om die Kaap*. Balkema.

Wie onthou nie nog uit sy skooldae daardie romantiese figure uit die voorgeschiedenis van Suid-Afrika nie? Manne soos Diaz en Vasco da Gama en die afgrylslike seemonster, Adamastor, kon die Portugese digter Camoes liries laat word. In hierdie boek vind ons nou die spannende avonture van die heldhaftige ou seevaarders in een deurlopende verhaal verwerk deur 'n knap jong geskiedkundige.

Kruger, B. R. *Die ontstaan van die Gereformeerde kerk in Suid-Afrika*. Pretoria, V. en R. drukkery.

Hierdie proefskrif is 'n welkome bydrae tot die Suid-Afrikaanse kerkgeschiedenis – 'n gebied wat nogal die afgelope paar jaar heelwat aandag van geskiedkundiges ontvang het. Die belangrikheid van so'n werk kan 'n mens alleen

besef as jy onthou hoe nou die Afrikaner se godsdiens met sy alledaagse lewe verstrengel was.

Loubser, A. G. H. *Suster Nannie*. N. G. kerk-uitgewers.

Mense wat hulle lewe wy aan die ophulling en geluk van hulle medemense kry veels te min publisiteit in ons hedendaagse materialistiese wêreld. Daarom verwelkom ek hierdie boekie waarin vertel word van die onbaatsugtige liefdeswerk van 'n voorbeeldige naturellelvrou wat 'n sieraad in elke christelike gemeenskap sou gewees het.

Preston, M. *My God en ek*. Dagbreek.

Hierdie boek is nie nuut nie. Slegs teen die end het die skrywer nuwe gegevens bygevoeg. Ek noem dit egter hier om te bewys dat, anders as wat sommige mense meen, dit nie slegs die minderwaardige Afrikaanse boek is wat groot ooplae beleef nie. Hierdie besielende verhaal van die skrywer se moedige stryd en oorwinning oor liggaamlike gebreke het in die agt jaar van sy bestaan reeds twaalf drukke beleef.

Schweitzer, A. *Uit my jong dae*. Balkema.

Hierdie mooi outobiografiese werkie van die vermaarde moderne *uomo universale*: teoloog, medikus, filosoof en musikus is nou ook in Afrikaans beskikbaar in 'n vertaling van Prof. en mev. Weiss. Oud en jonk behoort dit interessante en besielende leesstof te vind. 'n Mens kan die boekie nie te sterk aanbeveel nie.

Viljoen, P. J. *Karakters uit die Bybel*. N. G. kerk-uitgewers.

In drie lywige bande word die agtergrond en geschiedenis van talle figure uit die Bybel behandel. Dit is 'n waardevolle werk vir diegene wat meer kennis wil opdoen in verband met die mense wat deel uitmaak van die Bybelverhaal.

ALLERLEI

Gombrich, E. H. *Kuns deur die eeue*. Balkema.

Die uitgwer en die vertalers, Dr. F. G. E. en M. Nilant, het ons 'n groot diens bewys deur hierdie standaardwerk op die gebied van

kunsgeschiedenis in Afrikaans beskikbaar te stel. In Afrikaans is dit dan nou ook die enigste gesaghebbende werk op sy gebied. Talyryke plate verhoog die waarde van die werk wat uit die aard van die saak nie soveel aandag aan die moderne kunstenaars gee nie.

Scheltens, A. M. J. *Die tuingids.* Nasionale boekhandel.

Op die oomblik kan ek aan geen beter of meer gesaghebbende handboek in Afrikaans vir die tuinier dink nie. Nie alleen word talle soorte blomme, struike, vrugtebome en groente behandel nie, maar raad word ook gegee teen enige moontlike soort pes en plaag. Selfs die konstruksie van 'n visdam word haarfyn beskryf. Die boek is ryklik geillustreer, onder andere met 'n paar kleurplate.

Scholtz, G. D. *Die gevare uit die Ooste.* Voor-trekkerpers.

Weer een van daardie gedagteprikkelende werke waarvoor hierdie onvermoeide skrywer reeds bekendheid verwerf het. Met koue logika beskryf hy die gevare wat die Suid-Afrikaanse lewenswyse in die moderne wêreld bedreig. Die skrywer probeer om eerlike rekenskap te gee van die toekoms van sy land en volk en sy gedagtes verdien die aandag van elke denkende Suid-Afrikaner.

K I N D E R B O E K E

Baum, F. L. *Die towenaar van Oz.* Afrikaanse pers.

'n Afrikaanse vertaling van 'n verwerking van hierdie mooi kinderverhaal waaruit daar ook 'n uitstekende film 'n aantal jare gelede gemaak is. Dit het baie groot illustrasies waarvan heelwat in kleur is.

Longfellow, H. W. *Die verhaal van Hiawatha.* Afrikaanse pers.

Nog 'n vertaling van 'n verwerking vir kinders van Longfellow se beroemde gedig met pragtige illustrasies. 'n Mens wil net hoop dat die kinders wat hierdie verwerking lees, aangespoor sal word om, as hulle eendag groter is, die oorspronklike gedig self te lees.

Opperman, D. J. *Kleuterverseboek.* Nasionale boekhandel.

Hierdie bloemlesing van Afrikaanse kleuter-verse met bypassende illustrasies rykl.k voor-sien, vul werklik 'n groot leemte. Hier het ons nou vir die eerste keer al die beste kinderverse bymekaar in een band en hoef ons nie meer hot en haal te soek as ons so 'n vers dringend nodig kry vir een of ander doel nie.

Saint-Exupéry, A. de. *Die klein prinsie.* Balkema.

'n Regte klein juweel van 'n kinderboek deur hierdie hoogs begaafde Franse skrywer. Die oulike tekeninge is deur die skrywer self gemaak.

Steyn, C. *Trippelpas en Kaapse draai.* Nasionale boekhandel.

Die wedervaringe van 'n tienderjarige dogter in haar eie woorde vertel. Hoewel die skryfster daarin slaag om deurgaans binne die ervaringsfeer van die dogter te bly, val sy wat haar taalgebruik betref, m.i. tog hier en daar deur die mat. Oor die algemeen is dit egter 'n aangename dogtersverhaal.

Venter, F. A. *Die geheim van die berg.* Tafelberg.

'n Vroeë werk van die skrywer wat onlangs soveel aandag op hom getrek het met sy *Man van Crene*. Dit is 'n spannende seunsverhaal wat sonder voorbehoud as gesonde ontspannings-leesstof aanbeveel kan word.

SOME RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN BOOKS IN ENGLISH

Reviewed by

R. B. ZAAIMAN

City Libraries, Cape Town

RACE RELATIONS

Pistorius, P. V. *No further trek*. C.N.A. 84 p.

In the past racial problems could be evaded simply by trekking away from the disliked group. To-day that cannot be done, and urgent and sincere attempts should be made to solve the problem of peaceful co-existence. This is Mr. Pistorius' theme, and he urges a change of heart on the part of the white community in South Africa, and opportunities for the Bantu. He is a professor of Greek at the University of Pretoria, and in 1955 opposed the introduction of a bill to enlarge the Senate. The present volume was published in Afrikaans under the title *Die trek is verby*.

LAW

Wille, George. *Law for the layman; a simple statement of the law of South Africa*. Maskew Miller. 162 p.

Dr. Wille was formerly professor of law in the University of Cape Town, and the author of several standard works on South African law. This volume reviews succinctly the main legal divisions of crimes, delicts, contracts and the law of persons.

WILD LIFE

Bulpin, T. V. comp. *Way of the wild*. Timmins. 98 p.

Magnificent wild life photographs in black and white (a few coloured), with short descriptive notes.

FISHING

Ovenstones; a story of the sea. Ovenstones. 64 p.

A handsome volume on the firm John Ovenstone Ltd., one of the largest South African fishing companies. Useful general information on the development of the fishing industry and its present methods and situation is given.

Schoeman, S. *Strike!* A handbook of fishing in South African coastal waters. Balkema. 242 p. maps.

A knowledgeable fisherman friend claims that this is the best book on South African sea-fishing ever published. It is written in straightforward, untechnical language, and gives advice on each aspect, even how to gaff a fish. Individual detailed discussion is given to a large number of different fish, and the characteristics of favourite fishing spots are described. An excellent book for both the beginner and the experienced fisherman.

ARCHITECTURE

Home building ideas; architects' plans for South Africa. Purnell. 168 p.

In these plans is embodied "the recognition that there is a distinctive South African architecture . . ." These pages contain a cross-section of the contemporary South African homes that have been featured in the journal *Architect and builder*. Modern dwellings of many sizes and purposes, and designed for a variety of climates, are described and illustrated through photographs and floor plans. A chapter deals with re-styling. Numerous advertisements indicate where the materials and fixtures are available.

HUMOUR

Bosman, Herman Charles. *A cask of jerepigo.* C.N.A. 172 p. (Dassie books).

One of the most brilliant of South African journalists, Mr. Bosman wrote these essays and sketches for *S.A. Opinion* and *Trek* from 1944 to 1949, on whatever subject took his fancy.

Jonsson, Elizabeth. *Futility farm.* Timmins. 202 p.

South African farm life seems to induce hilarious description too readily, and one can but hope that publishers will continue to be as selective as Mr. Timmins was in this case. Mrs. Jonsson's story of beginners on a Natal farm is very amusing and witty.

Richards, Hylda M. *Hurrah for the life of a farmer!* Timmins. 1957. 76 p.

The trials of a farmer's wife and her farmer, in intelligent verse. Good fun.

TRAVEL, DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Agar-Hamilton, J. A. I. and Turner, L. C. F. eds. *The Sidi Rezegh battles,* 1941. O.U.P. 505 p.

This is the official South African history of the North Africa "Crusader" desert offensive of November, 1941. The rôle of the South African forces, consisting of the 1st South African Infantry Division under Gen. G. E. Brink and the South African Air Force, is described and their leadership evaluated.

Freudenberg, A. *Game parks of Sub-Equatorial Africa,* Pan-African Touring Club. 68 p.

The area covered is that south of French Equatorial Africa and the Sudan. Detailed information on twenty-five parks is given, and a sketch map of each is provided.

Green, Lawrence G. *Beyond the city lights; the story of the Western Province — the towns and farms, the life and people, the folklore and the legends.* Howard Timmins. 240 p.

A volume which investigates the byways of history. The secret of Mr. Green's success as the most popular South African non-fiction

writer lies in the fascination of the incidental happening, the anecdote which turns history into a human business. The oldest settled part of South Africa supplies him with rich material.

McNeile, Michael. *This Africa of ours.* McAlan. 257 p.

Mention is made of the fact that Mr. McNeile's father was "Sapper" of Bulldog Drummond fame. It consists of a selection of stories about famous South African happenings broadcast on the commercial Springbok Radio programme of the same name as the book's title.

Martin, A. C. *The concentration camps, 1900 — 1902.* Howard Timmins. 109 p.

The arguments for and denunciations of the concentration camps established during the Anglo-Boer war by the British Forces have been advanced with such emotion in the past that one approaches a restatement with unwillingness. This volume, however, seems to examine the matter with integrity. It concludes that the camps were militarily justified, that the problems were greater than foreseen, and that the death of 20,000 inmates were mainly due to epidemics brought in by the refugees.

Oliver, S. P. *Many treks made Rhodesia.* Timmins. 1957. 170 p.

In this English version of the author's *Die pioniertrekke van Gazaland*, the story of the treks from the Union to the eastern part of southern Rhodesia, around Melsetter, is told in a very lively way. The trekkers went North during the 1890's at the invitation of Mr. Rhodes' Chartered Company, poorly equipped for the difficulties they were to meet. Their struggles and endurance form a fascinating part of the history of that country.

Rosenthal, Eric. *River of diamonds.* Timmins. 161 p.

The river is the Vaal in the area around Barkly West, near which the first diamond in South Africa was discovered in 1866. (A statement by Mr. E. S. Jacobs, the boy who picked up the stone, is reprinted in part.) Events, characters and conditions up to the present day are presented in attractive and informative fashion.

Schoeman, P. J. *Hunters of the desert land.* Timmins. (1957 ?) 161 p.

The wonderfully poetic folklore of the Bushmen of the Kalahari is the background of this story of an old man who is assisted by the author in finding a suitable husband for his daughter. Dr. Schoeman, a former professor of social anthropology, was for many years chief game warden of South West Africa, where he made a close study of the Bushmen. Though it is not stated, this book appeared in Afrikaans under the title *Jagters van die woestynland*.

Tapson, Winifred. *Old timer.* Howard Timmins. 181 p.

In the very early 1920's Mrs. Tapson set out from Cape Town to Fort Jameson, Northern Rhodesia, to become the town's first typiste. In a delightfully witty way she tells of her journey and the Rhodesian way of life of the time.

BIOGRAPHY

Boberg, Ulf. *The Boberg story.* Timmins. 184 p.

The recently retired Criminal Investigation Department Chief tells of a number of his cases, the best known of which is the Oppenheimer jewel theft. However, his earlier detection work, when he was a young officer tackling fairly obscure cases, is perhaps the more interesting part of the book.

Connolly, R. *The Bob Connolly story.* Howard Timmins. 192 p.

Mr. Connolly is the cartoonist of *The Rand Daily Mail*, and creator of the Little Man, probably the best known South African cartoon figure. In breezy style, Mr. Connolly reports on whatever events amused him, and on interesting personalities he met.

Frazer, Beatrice. *Sunshine and lamplight.* Timmins. 181 p.

In January, 1951, Mrs. Frazer's husband bought a Native trading store at Wapumapi, Zululand. He died shortly afterwards, and for

four years she ran the business, at the same time bringing up her three daughters and son. She tells of her experiences with humour and wisdom. I found this one of the best books of this quarter's batch, and recommend it to any reader.

Pirow, O. *James Barry Munnik Hertzog.* Howard Timmins 288 p.

A most valuable contribution to the study of the political thought and achievements of General Hertzog, who was a leader in South African politics from the Boer war until his death in 1942. From 1924 to 1939, he was Premier, and Mr. Pirow was a close personal friend, becoming Minister of Justice and subsequently Minister of Defence and Railways. Mr. Pirow also belonged to the "inner cabinet", the other members of which were the Premier, Gen. Smuts and Mr. Havenga. He developed a profound knowledge of General Hertzog as a politician and statesman. Anyone interested in Mr. Pirow's own political life will also find this a rich source-book.

FICTION

Croudace, Glynn. *Motives for murder.* C.N.A. 175 p. (Dassie books).

A volume of short detective stories, some quite clever, but Mr. Croudace must take care not to withhold clues from his reader.

Millin, Sarah Gertrude. *Two bucks without hair, and other stories,* C.N.A. 207 p.

The first five of these stories about the Bantu deal with murders, the others mainly with the authoress' first servant, Alita. Mrs. Millin's not particularly personal style does not lend itself very well to an expression of the finer distinctions of the Bantu personality.

O'Keefe, Bob. *Gold without glitter.* C.N.A. 166 p. (Dassie books).

Action centred round the disappearance of the mythical Kruger millions during the Anglo-Boer war.

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The Report of the Commission on Undesirable Publications ;
memorandum to the Hon. the Minister of the Interior : 113

Enkele aspekte van leserkundige ondersoek in Suid-Afrika,
Prof. G. Cronjé: 116

Mr. M. M. Stirling : citation on the presentation of
an illuminated address : 122

Mr. Charles Christie : an appreciation : 125

Die opkoms van die Staatsbiblioteek en sy planne vir bevordering
van die Nederlandse boek,
Dr. G. W. Eybers: 127

Non-European library services in Pretoria,
Margaret Peters: 130

A plan for the development of scientific and technical library
services in South Africa, *Hazel Mews*: 134

Afrikaanse literatuur van die vierde kwartaal van 1957,
D. L. Ehlers: 137

Some recent South African books in English,
R. B. Zaaiman: 140

Library notes, news and correspondence : 126, 133

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